

**HOUGHTON COUNTY BOARD OF CANVASSERS
MEETING
AUGUST 6, 2026**

The Houghton County Board of Canvassers held a meeting on Thursday, August 6, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. at the Franklin Township Office in Hancock, Michigan. The meeting was held to review and approve the August 6, 2026 Primary Election results.

The Canvassers completed their per diems and reviewed the minutes from the May 2026 Canvassing.

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Chairman, Barbara Manninen at 9:10 a.m. The following responded to roll call to the County Clerk, Jennifer Kelly: Barbara Manninen, Democrat; Charlie Markham, Republican; Valorie Troesch, Democrat and Sharon Foix, Republican.

Also in attendance was Renee Cunningham, Chief Deputy County Clerk, assisting with the canvassing and Barry Fink from the League of Women Voters.

There was no one in public attendance after Barry Fink left around Noon.

Pledge of Allegiance:

The Canvassers did the Pledge of Allegiance.

Agenda:

A Motion was made by Valorie Troesch and seconded by Charlie Markham to approve the Agenda as presented.

The Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes 4, Nays 0.

Approve Minutes from last Canvassing-May 7, 2026 and May 12, 2026:

A Motion was made by Valorie Troesch, seconded by Sharon Foix to approve the May 7, 2026 and May 12, 2026 minutes as presented.

The Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes 4, Nays 0.

Public Comments:

None.

Review and approve all election envelopes, tapes, and all documentation in every Houghton County Precinct for the August election

Early Voting-

The Canvassers completed the Checklist for every City and Township and verified the tabulator tape matched the Statement of Votes Cast report.

The Canvassers wanted it noted that the Chair did not write the date by her signatures on days 2-9 after she completed swearing in the election inspectors.

A Motion was made by Valorie Troesch, seconded by Sharon Foix, to approve the Early Voting totals.

The Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes 4, Nays 0.

Adams 1-

The Canvassers completed the Checklist and verified the tabulator tape matched the Statement of Votes Cast report.

The Canvassers wanted it noted that 2 tabulator tapes should not be in the Canvasser's envelope.

A Motion was made by Valorie Troesch, seconded by Sharon Foix, to approve Adams Township 1.

The Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes 4, Nays 0.

Calumet 1

The Canvassers completed the Checklist and verified the tabulator tape matched the Statement of Votes Cast report.

A Motion was made by Sharon Foix, seconded by Valorie Troesch, to approve Calumet Township 1.

The Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes 4, Nays 0.

Calumet 2

The Canvassers completed the Checklist and verified the tabulator tape matched the Statement of Votes Cast report.

A Motion was made by Charlie Markham, seconded by Valorie Troesch, to approve Calumet Township 2.

The Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes 4, Nays 0.

Calumet 5

The Canvassers completed the Checklist and verified the tabulator tape matched the Statement of Votes Cast report.

A Motion was made by Valorie Troesch, seconded by Sharon Foix, to approve Calumet Township 5.

The Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes 4, Nays 0.

Calumet 9

The Canvassers completed the Checklist and verified the tabulator tape matched the Statement of Votes Cast report.

A Motion was made by Charlie Markham, seconded by Barbara Manninen, to approve Calumet Township 9.

The Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes 4, Nays 0.

Calumet AVCB

The Canvassers completed the Checklist and verified the tabulator tape matched the Statement of Votes Cast report.

A Motion was made by Sharon Foix, seconded by Barbara Manninen, to approve the Calumet AVCB for Precincts 1, 2, 5 and 9.

The Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes 4, Nays 0.

Chassell 1

The Canvassers completed the Checklist and verified the tabulator tape matched the Statement of Votes Cast report.

A Motion was made by Valorie Troesch, seconded by Sharon Foix, to approve Chassell Township 1.

The Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes 4, Nays 0.

Duncan Township 1

The Canvassers completed the Checklist and verified the tabulator tape matched the Statement of Votes Cast report.

The Canvassers wanted it noted there was a cross out with no initials on the page for the serial and seal number on the VAT. Clerk Kelly will give the white copy of the Receiving Board page to Clerk Allen. Not having the proper colored pages in the envelopes caused a lot of confusion for the Canvassers.

Motion was made by Valorie Troesch, seconded by Sharon Foix, to approve Duncan Township 1.

The Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes 4, Nays 0.

Duncan Township 2

The Canvassers completed the Checklist and verified the tabulator tape matched the Statement of Votes Cast report.

Canvassers wanted it noted that there was a cross out on the page for the serial and seal number page with no initials.

A Motion was made by Barbara Manninen, seconded by Charlie Markham, to approve Duncan Township 2.

The Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes 4, Nays 0.

Elm River 1

The Canvassers completed the Checklist and verified the tabulator tape matched the Statement of Votes Cast report.

Canvassers wanted it noted that the List of Voters was not hole punched, but an Activity Log was hole punched. Canvassers questioned why. The Ballot Summary was not hole punched. The remarks page was not hole punched.

A Motion was made by Charlie Markham, seconded by Valorie Troesch, to approve Elm River 1.

The Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes 4, Nays 0.

Franklin 1

The Canvassers completed the Checklist and verified the tabulator tape matched the Statement of Votes Cast report.

A Motion was made by Barbara Manninen, seconded by Charlie Markham, to approve Franklin Township 1.

The Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes 4, Nays 0.

Franklin 2

The Canvassers completed the Checklist and verified the tabulator tape matched the Statement of Votes Cast report.

A Motion was made by Valorie Troesch, seconded by Sharon Foix, to approve Franklin Township 2.

The Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes 4, Nays 0.

Hancock Twp 1

The Canvassers completed the Checklist and verified the tabulator tape matched the Statement of Votes Cast report.

A Motion was made by Valorie Troesch, seconded by Sharon Foix, to approve Hancock Twp 1.

The Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes 4, Nays 0.

Laird 1

The Canvassers completed the Checklist and verified the tabulator tape matched the Statement of Votes Cast report.

A Motion was made by Valorie Troesch, seconded by Charlie Markham, to approve Laird 1.

The Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes 4, Nays 0.

Adjourn meeting:

A Motion was made by Valorie Troesch, seconded by Charlie Markham, to adjourn the meeting until 9:00 a.m. on August 7, 2026 to continue the canvassing.

The Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes 4, Nays 0.

Call to Order-August 7, 2026-Continued Canvassing:

The meeting was called to order by Chairman, Barbara Manninen at 9:00 a.m. The following responded to roll call to the County Clerk, Jennifer Kelly: Barbara Manninen, Democrat; Charlie Markham, Republican; Valorie Troesch, Democrat and Sharon Foix, Republican.

Also in attendance was Renee Cunningham, Chief Deputy County Clerk, assisting with the canvassing.

There was no one in public attendance.

Pledge of Allegiance:

The Canvassers did the Pledge of Allegiance.

Agenda:

A Motion was made by Valorie Troesch and seconded by Barbara Manninen to approve the Agenda as presented.

The Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes 4, Nays 0.

Public Comments:

None.

Osceola 1

The Canvassers completed the Checklist and verified the tabulator tape matched the Statement of Votes Cast report.

The Canvassers wanted it noted that on the Closing Certificate, the Democrat name was crossed out and no initials. Election workers should only use blue pens for any corrections, not red.

A Motion was made by Charlie Markham, seconded by Valorie Troesch to approve Osceola 1.

The Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes 4, Nays 0.

Osceola 2

The Canvassers completed the Checklist and verified the tabulator tape matched the Statement of Votes Cast report.

A Motion was made by Sharon Foix, seconded by Barbara Manninen, to approve Osceola 2.

The Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes 4, Nays 0.

Osceola 4

The Canvassers completed the Checklist and verified the tabulator tape matched the Statement of Votes Cast report.

The Canvassers wanted it noted that the Canvassers will verify the tabulator tape to a new Election Summary report that Clerk Kelly will print for the August 11th continued canvassing. There were 2 Osceola 2 reports.

Portage 2

The Canvassers completed the Checklist and verified the tabulator tape matched the Statement of Votes Cast report.

The Canvassers wanted it noted that on the Closing Certificate, the workers should not make double cross outs. They should do a single line in blue. They also forgot to write their initials.

A Motion was made by Valorie Troesch, seconded by Charlie Markham, to approve Portage 2.

The Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes 4, Nays 0.

Portage 4

The Canvassers completed the Checklist and verified the tabulator tape matched the Statement of Votes Cast report.

The Canvassers wanted it noted that on the Closing Certificate, the workers scribbled over an error and did not initial their correction. Any corrections should be done with a single line in blue.

A Motion was made by Sharon Foix, seconded by Barbara Manninen, to approve Portage 4.

The Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes 4, Nays 0.

Portage AVCB

The Canvassers completed the Checklist and verified the tabulator tape matched the Statement of Votes Cast report.

A Motion was made by Valorie Troesch, seconded by Sharon Foix to approve Portage Township AVCB.

The Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes 4, Nays 0.

Quincy 1

The Canvassers completed the Checklist and verified the tabulator tape matched the Statement of Votes Cast report.

A Motion was made by Charlie Markham, seconded by Barbara Manninen, to approve Quincy 1.

The Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes 4, Nays 0.

Schoolcraft 1

A Motion was made by Sharon Foix, seconded by Valorie Troesch, to approve Stanton 1.

The Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes 4, Nays 0.

Stanton 1

The Canvassers completed the Checklist and verified the tabulator tape matched the Statement of Votes Cast report.

Canvassers wanted it noted that in the Canvassers envelope, the Democrat and Republican did not sign the Completion Certificate. It was signed in the County Clerk's envelope. On the Receiving Board page, there were 4 cross outs with no initials. Workers need to do a single line in blue and write their initials with any corrections.

A Motion was made by Valorie Troesch, seconded by Charlie Markham, to approve Stanton 1.

The Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes 4, Nays 0.

Stanton 2

The Canvassers completed the Checklist and verified the tabulator tape matched the Statement of Votes Cast report.

The Canvassers asked that the workers not send the zero (0) tape. That tape should go in the Local Clerk's envelope. There were two (2) tapes in the County Clerk's envelope. There should only be one (1). On the Closing Certificate, for the container seal number, the number was scribbled over with no initials. The workers should put a single line in blue through any correction with the workers initials.

A Motion was made by Sharon Foix, seconded by Valorie Troesch, to approve Stanton 2.

The Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes 4, Nays 0.

Torch Lake 1

The Canvassers completed the Checklist and verified the tabulator tape matched the Statement of Votes Cast report.

The Canvassers asked that the workers not send the zero (0) tape. That tape should go in the Local Clerk's envelope. On the Closing Certificate, the copy in the Canvasser's Envelope was hard to read. The workers should not write over anything, they should put a single line in blue and put their initials. On the Canvassers copy of the Receiving Board page, there is a line through Ken Pepin's name. Canvassers were confused as to why.

A Motion was made by Valorie Troesch, seconded by Sharon Foix to approve Torch Lake 1.

The Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes 4, Nays 0.

Torch Lake 2

The Canvassers completed the Checklist and verified the tabulator tape matched the Statement of Votes Cast report.

A Motion was made by Valorie Troesch, seconded by Sharon Foix, to approve Torch Lake 2.

The Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes 4, Nays 0.

Torch Lake AVCB

The Canvassers completed the Checklist and verified the tabulator tape matched the Statement of Votes Cast report.

The Canvassers asked that the copy for the Canvasser's Envelope that had the Receiving Board page should properly have the Democrat sign and date. It was missing. It was on the white copy in the County Clerk's Envelope.

A Motion was made by Valorie Troesch, seconded by Charlie Markham, to approve Torch Lake AVCB.

The Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes 4, Nays 0.

City of Hancock 1

The Canvassers completed the Checklist and verified the tabulator tape matched the Statement of Votes Cast report.

The Canvassers were confused as the wrong-colored pages were in the wrong envelopes. On the Closing Certificate the wrong number was written. The page showed 163. The Canvassers were able to determine it was missing the number for the absentee voters which was 128, therefore, the total should have been 291 which matched the Statement of Votes Cast report. On the Closing Certificate, for Container No. 1, there were 2 cross outs without initials. The Canvassers request 1 single line in blue with the worker's initials. There was a correction in the County Clerk's Envelope. On the Canvasser's white copy, there was no good seal number. The Canvassers request that the workers put 1 set of remarks in the pollbook. Either the remarks should be in writing, or by typing them into the EPollbook, but the 2 versions were not consistent which caused confusion. Sherri Dulong's 2 comments contradicted themselves due to time difference.

A Motion was made by Valorie Troesch, seconded by Charlie Markham, to approve City of Hancock Precinct 1.

The Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes 4, Nays 0.

City of Hancock 2

The Canvassers completed the Checklist and verified the tabulator tape matched the Statement of Votes Cast report.

The Canvassers were confused as the wrong-colored pages were again in the wrong envelopes. On the Closing Certificate, the serial number and seal numbers were crossed out, but no initials. The workers must put their initials showing they made the correction. If the workers are putting the pink copy in the Canvassers envelope, they should make sure to write in ink so the Canvassers can read the page. There was no container #1 seal number, and the Canvassers could not read the Democrat or Republican signatures at all. On the Closing Certificate in the County Clerk's Envelope, on container #1 for the second one, there is a cross out, but no initials. The worker must put their initials when they make a correction. The number shown on the number of voters was 156. Again, it was missing the 160 for absentee voters for a total of 316. The Canvassers verified the numbers according to the Statement of Votes Cast report.

A Motion was made by Charlie Markham, seconded by Barbara Manninen, to approve City of Hancock Precinct 2.

The Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes 4, Nays 0.

City of Hancock 3

The Canvassers completed the Checklist and verified the tabulator tape matched the Statement of Votes Cast report.

The Canvassers were confused as the wrong-colored pages were again in the wrong envelopes. The workers should only do the written remarks or print the report from the EPollbook. The serial number and seal for the VAT were crossed out and not initialed. Workers must initial corrections. On the Write in page, the box for Election Day was not checked, and there was nothing written on the page for no write ins. The workers should only write in valid write ins, not the ones they wrote on the page.

A Motion was made by Charlie Markham, seconded by Barbara Manninen, to approve City of Hancock Precinct 3.

The Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes 4, Nays 0.

City of Houghton 1

The Canvassers completed the Checklist and verified the tabulator tape matched the Statement of Votes Cast report.

Canvassers asked that the Write in Box for Election Day be checked in the future.

A Motion was made by Valorie Troesch, seconded by Charlie Markham, to approve City of Houghton 1.

The Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes 4, Nays 0.

City of Houghton 2

The Canvassers completed the Checklist and verified the tabulator tape matched the Statement of Votes Cast report.

The Canvassers asked that an Activity Report never be put with the Pollbook in the County Clerk's Envelope. Clerk Zawada brought the correct report showing the list of voters. On the Closing Certificate, in the County Clerk's envelope, for container #1, there was a correction in blue, but the workers initialed in black, why. On the Write In Page, the Election Day box should be checked in the future. The Remarks said the Absentees were tabulated at precinct. Do not say that. Say the absentee ballots are tabulated at the AVCB. Clerk Zawada took the Activity Report back to her office for future training.

A Motion was made by Valorie Troesch, seconded by Charlie Markham, to approve City of Houghton 2.

The Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes 4, Nays 0.

City of Houghton AVCB

The Canvassers completed the Checklist and verified the tabulator tape matched the Statement of Votes Cast report.

A Motion was made by Valorie Troesch, seconded by Sharon Foix, to approve City of Houghton AVCB.

The Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes 4, Nays 0.

The Canvassers approved all of the Precinct Delegates who received sufficient votes.

Public Comments:

Clerk Kelly stated the Canvassers will meet the following on Tuesday at 1:00 pm to count any MOVE ballots and cured signature ballots.

Adjourn meeting:

A Motion was made by Valorie Troesch, seconded by Charlie Markham, to adjourn the meeting at 12:08 pm.

The Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes 4, Nays 0.

Call to Order-August 11, 2026-Continued Canvassing:

The meeting was called to order by Chairman, Barbara Manninen at 1:00 p.m on August 11, 2026 at the County Clerk's Office. The following responded to roll call to the County Clerk, Jennifer Kelly: Barbara Manninen, Democrat; Charlie Markham, Republican; Valorie Troesch, Democrat and Teresa Kariniemi substituting for Sharon Foix, Republican.

Also in attendance was Barry Fink and Karen Timonen.

Pledge of Allegiance:

The Canvassers did the Pledge of Allegiance.

Clerk Kelly provided 2 cured signature ballots and 2 MOVE ballots to the Canvassers. The Canvassers opened the envelopes and read the votes.

Portage Township, Precinct 2: Votes were for James, Rogers, Denotter, Prestin, Markkanen, Datto, Skewes and Raffaelli.

Franklin Township, Precinct 1: Votes were for Swanson, Stevens, Barr, Van Ginhoven, Irizarry and Miles.

City Hancock, Precinct 1: Votes were for Benson, El-Sayed, Bloomquist, Van Ginhoven and Irizarry.

Franklin Township, Precinct 1: Votes were for Beson, El-Sayed, Barr, Van Ginhoven, Miles and Irizarry.

Osceola 4:

Motion was made to approve Osceola, Precinct 4 by Valorie Troesch and seconded by Charlie Markham.

The Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes 4, Nays 0.

A Motion was made by Teresa Kariniemi and seconded by Barbara Manninen to certify the August 4, 2026 election.

The Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes 4, Nays 0.

Public Comments:

None.

Adjournment:

Motion was made by Valorie Troesch and seconded by Teresa Kariniemi to adjourn the meeting at 1:17 pm.

The Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes 4, Nays 0.

Charlie Markham

Valorie Troesch

Barbara Manninen

Sharon Foix

Jennifer Kelly
Clerk of the Houghton County Canvassers